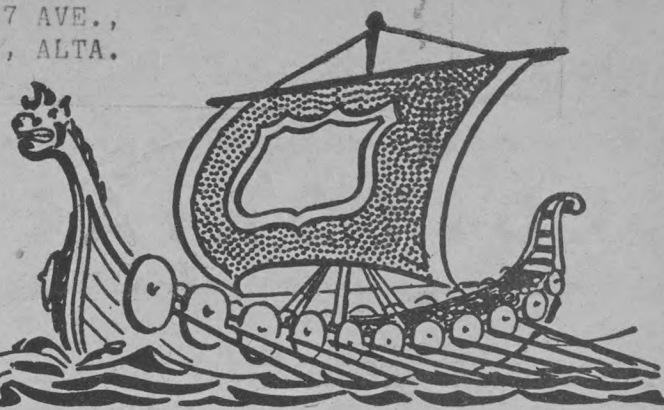




Scandinavian Centre News



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MAY, 1966

—EIGHT PAGES

Project Begins On Klondike Booth

ANYBODY GOING TO DENMARK SOON?

*Traditions and what they can develop
into in the course of about 13,000 years*

When a country has been inhabited for about 13,000 years, traditions, both spiritual and material, it's inevitable that certain traditions will settle down with the population. Neither can it be denied that the country's oldest car models begin to seem a little out-of-date and that now and then, the Danish five-storey skyscrapers look as if they just might collapse.

Some of the traditions have disappeared. No one believes in witches any more, although a few may still be found. We all know that it is a cat and not Hamlet that lies buried outside Kronborg Castle. The idea that ladies and gentlemen who are strangers to each other go to bed with a sword between them has also been uprooted. On the other hand, many women will smoke a cigar — big or small — at home after dinner and maybe even in the street. And there aren't any of us left after 1900 who believe that a dinner must have more than four courses in order to be good.

But many traditions are preserved. We still like to think that little "Nisser" (Gnomes) with their red caps do exist and that they eat rice-porridge on Christmas Eve and keep all evil spirits away. We also believe that our postman would never be able to deliver their letters if they were not dressed in red jackets. And we have definite assurance that Copenhagen is the "Paris of the North" without having the faintest idea where the similarity lies. And we are convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the easiest way to move a sofa or a laurel bush or a refrigerator from one end of town to the other is by loading it on a two or three wheeled bicycle.

Many of our traditions are bound up with the time of the year and the holidays. They might as well have been ordered by law since no one dreams of breaking them at Fastelavn (Mardi Gras), we still beat the cat out of the barrel, the only difference today being that there is no longer a live cat in the barrel. We eat Shrove Monday buns called "Boller" early in the morning. At Easter, we devour quantities of coloured eggs, ham and green kale and drink Tuborg Easter Brew with it. We are always much surprised to notice that after taking two or three bottles we begin to talk much louder and more incoherently than usual.

On Whitsunday, one eats roast lamb if one can afford it — and even if one can't. On Midsummer Eve, called "Sct Hans' Evening", bonfires are lighted on the beach to send all the witches flying off to the Harz Mountains. All the while one stands holding hands and lacing fingers with one of them without knowing it. The day Tivoli opens, we go into that unusual garden to eat small red shrimps on dark rye bread. The first of May, the workers celebrate the struggle for the eight-hour day — a goal that's long since been reached.

Finally, at Christmas there are many traditions. We eat rice-porridge, in which one must find a single hidden almond, roast goose and apple-cake and a host of very savoury and definitely fattening courses. All of which fixes it so that just after Christmas everyone feels extremely uncomfortable and very, very poor.

In between, there are other traditions. Five minutes after they arrive in the capital of Copenhagen, prominent visitors are photographed at the statue of "The Little Mermaid". She sits on a stone out there at Langelinie looking very sweet and unapproachable. If the guest isn't prominent, then he and his friends photograph each other standing beside her. There is also the tradition that everyone must see the King's Guard in their bearskin when they tramp through the town with a full band and end up at Amalienborg Palace where the King counts them to be sure they are all there before he eats his lunch. And then, one looks at the many beautiful spires and all the old houses and says to oneself, or to others, that one has never seen so many bicycles gathered in one place and no one ever has either. Then one goes out Dyrehaven, and says to oneself that one has never seen so much antlered game except in a dream after a hunt dinner. The deer look as if it were possible to walk right up and talk with them. But it isn't. The only form of contact between human being and deer is through a golf ball. One either slices beautifully and hits them with one, or else they find a ball themselves and eat it.

It is also traditional to go to Kronborg Castle at Elsinore to watch artists from all over the world play Hamlet right in the court yard, (they don't all play at the same time) and to attend the Royal

Danish Ballet and Music Festival in May. In June the inhabitants of Frederiksund near Copenhagen put on a Viking Pageant telling tourists and present days' Danes of our slightly wilder Viking ancestors. The preparations include that all men in town grow tremendous beards. It is traditional for Danish Americans to arrive equipped with wives and children, ten-gallon hats, and a freewheeling automobile complete with air-conditioning, television set, and refrigerator in order to go to Jutland for the annual Fourth of July celebration at Rebild, the only place outside the United States, where this date is celebrated regularly — and with an audience of tens of thousands at that.

How big is Denmark? From North to South it is 224 miles, and 225 miles from East to West. In height it is 6 to 9 feet below sea level and 535 feet above sea level, but no one ever goes up as high as that except to look at the view and eat lunch.

The country contains 16,576 square miles and there are 4,585,256 inhabitants. It should be mentioned that there are 35,000 more women than men. This makes the country a man's paradise where beautiful and affectionate women do all they can in order that the men may find themselves comfortable.

Perhaps you'd like to know how many persons there are to the square mile. There are 277. By comparison, each Swede has lots more room, for there are only 43 per square mile. And in France there are 212. There is less room in the Netherlands with 918 and in Belgium with 761. Thus, it is easy to see that in Denmark one can always shout to one's neighbours but at the same time there is elbow room enough when one sits down to eat.

If you want to compare the country's size with other spots on the globe then Denmark is about half the size of Ireland, and about as big as all of Lake Michigan — but naturally it is not nearly so wet.

The climate is mild. The average temperature swings between 32 degrees Fahrenheit in February to 61 degrees in July. Of course, it can frequently be warmer or colder — and when it is, the Danes drink quantities of Tuborg which helps a great deal. Copenhagen, the capital, has 1,350,000 inhabitants and that

is, of course, all too many in proportion to the entire population, but we just can't help it.

And so, what do these people of Denmark do?

1,200,000 are employed in industry and its allied crafts, one million are in agriculture, almost half a million are in trade. Almost as many are occupied with capital, public relief and similar work. A little over a quarter of a million are engaged in administration and free enterprise. About the same number is in transportation. 41,000 are in nursery and market gardening, 35,000 are in the fish trade, and 19,000 are concerned with forestry. And in their free time all of them write books, paint pictures and do things like that. Quite a few even split atoms.

Great shoals of fish swim all around Denmark, but we've never counted them. We only know that about 411,000 tons of them are fished up every year — herring, cod, flat fish and other kinds. Many tons of oysters are dredged up as well, but since they are weighed with the shells on it wouldn't be fair to take those figures into our accounting.

Denmark is fundamentally an agricultural country. Through centuries the Danish farmers have cultivated their fields, developed the breeds of pigs and cattle and so the fact that Denmark has today a leading position on the world's food market is not a mere coincidence. It is due to age-long energetic efforts on the part of Danish farmers and scientists whose co-operation has made possible a production of first-class provisions which are sold all over the world. Denmark exports butter for more than 635 million kroner, eggs for about 280 million, cheese for more than 335 million, and pork for about 1,500 million kroner. The total export of agricultural products reaches a sum of something over 5,250 million kroner. The export of fish has a value of about 380 million kroner.

We also send machinery into the world — small machines, and big cement machines, and many other kinds of machines for about 1,200 million kroner. We build and sell ships for about 355 million kroner. And in addition there are our exports of delicacies like Danish silver, Royal Copenhagen porcelain, football players, and whole rivers of Tuborg Beer.

THUMBS WANTED!!

Yes, you saw right — we want people with thumbs; as many as we can get. Some people have two, and that is fine. Some people are accused of having more than two and that ain't so good — as a matter of fact, it goes straight against all accepted principles of anatomy, so in order to once and for all prove this to yourself — and everybody else — why don't you come out and give us a hand . . . when we start to build the new *Klondike Booth.

Oh . . . you hadn't heard about that — well, at the last board meeting, it was among other items on the agenda, decided to build a new booth. It was generally agreed, that the old booth had served us well but that it had outlived its usefulness. I have stuck my nose into this pretty deep, so I have been assigned to head-up this little project. The general type construction has been settled on, also the size (approximately 24 feet by 32 feet) and lastly but not least the interior layout.

It will be all wood construction, with a shingled roof — it will have proper kitchen facilities for the good ladies that see fit to donate their time on our behalf; all in all it will be something well worthwhile.

The enthusiasm at the meeting ran high, as a matter of fact, nearly all the board members offered their time. If we can get a number of people out to the Centre for a weekend we can create quite a dent in the project.

How about it? How often have you told yourself that you should actually in some way contribute a little in some way or another instead of hoping that the other guy will. I, myself am new at this. This is my first experience along these lines, and I get a kick out of it.

Grab the phone and give me a ring at 479-7728, and let me know what time you can spare and when. Maybe a day, an evening or whatever you decide.

Let's make this a "CO-OPERATIVE" effort.

W. LARSEN,
Chairman.

*Rights not yet reserved.

EDITORIAL

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK . . .

BY HELGE RAMSING

ALBERTA WELCOMES THE YOUNG "AMBASSADORS" . . .

Again this year a contingent of "Exchange Farmers" from the Scandinavian countries arrived in Edmonton and were given a reception in the Scandinavian Centre. It seems to me appropriate to ask these questions:

1. What is the purpose of this undertaking?
2. What are these young Scaninavians going to experience in Alberta?
3. What kind of impression will they make on the Alberta Farmers?

It is a well known fact that our farmers in the period from May to October have great difficulties in recruiting the necessary labour force and by employing the Scandinavian farmers for this particular time of the year a gap in the agriculture employment picture is being filled.

The young farmers when they start working on the Alberta farms will have the opportunity to apply their agricultural knowledge in modern farm operations being run on a somewhat larger scale than they have been used to at home. They will in many cases be operating the most modern equipment and will become familiarized with our progressive farmers work methods. They will also find out that farmers out here in the west are as a whole, a friendly type of people who want to make them feel at ease and I am sure that the western hospitality as we know it in Alberta will make them feel at home in a few days.

During my travels last year I was able to visit many of the farmers in Alberta who employed the Scandinavian farmers. In all cases the farmers expressed satisfaction with the Scandinavian "boys" and they all praised their willingness to work and their desire to acquire new knowledge in the agricultural field. It appeared that at weekends when the work was done these boys also participated in the social life of the community. I found it rather amusing when a young Norwegian stated: "I have never been to so many weddings in all my life. I am invited to a wedding every Saturday. We have sure lots of fun here in Canada."

From what I could gather in my conversations with our farmers and the young Scandinavians, the arrangement had worked well and everybody was happy and many new friendships had been made. I would not be surprised if many of these boys some day will be back to make Alberta their home. When all aspects of the Farm Labour Exchange Program have been considered, a few facts seem to be of importance, namely that these young Scandinavian people, due to their attitude and behavior have been playing the part of "goodwill ambassadors" from abroad at the "grass roots level". The Alberta farmers hospitality combined with the challenge of adventure on the part of the individuals who pioneered this project, points to the fact that the spirit of co-operation is very much alive in Alberta today.

PLAN NOW TO SPEND
YOUR 1966 SUMMER HOLIDAY IN
BEAUTIFUL SCANDINAVIA



VASA GLIMPSES

POT LUCK SUPPER

The annual pot luck supper held in the Nordic Room on Sunday, March 26, sponsored by the Vasa Ladies, was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all present. The wonderful variety of tasty dishes was enough to satisfy a gourmet's appetite. It was good to see young and old and the little children, sharing in this truly "family" affair. The committee in charge deserve a sincere vote of thanks. Bridge and whist were played after supper and prizes went to the following: Bridge, ladies first, Elsie Comin; gent's, Eric Pierre. Consolation, Mary Pearson and Ed Pettersson. Whist, ladies first Evelyn Modin; gents, "Nellie" Anderson; consolation Ethel Graves and Andy Ogren.

ENGAGEMENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson wishes to announce the engagement of her only daughter Pauline, to Mr. Oystre Kowal, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kowal of Edmonton. The wedding will take place on May 28th, 1966 at St. Johns Greek Orthodox Church.

BIRTH

To Roger and Jo-Ann Ogren, a daughter.

DEATHS

Ida Josephine Enger of 11838 - 82nd Street passed away on April 11th, 1966 at the age of 55 years. She leaves to mourn her loss, besides her loving husband John Enger, one daughter, Mrs. Bud (Dorothy) Smith of Edmonton and three grandchildren; five brothers, Ove Dahl of Edmonton, Ole of Veteran, Alberta, Harold of Major, Saskatchewan, Lief of Compeer, Alberta and Magnus of Cereal, Alberta; and three sisters, Mrs. Percy (Emma) Cowan of Compeer, Alberta, Mrs. Pete (Thora) Yalte of Calgary and Mrs. Fred (Kathreen) Lundgren of Glendon, Alberta.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m. at Howard and McBride's Chapel. Dr. E. J. White officiated. Interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Mrs. Ida Enger was born in North Dakota, U.S.A. She came with her family to Court, Saskatchewan and married John Enger in 1934. They lived on a farm near Wainwright and moved to Edmonton in 1939. She was a long time member of Skandia Lodge No. 459, was a member of the Vasa Ladies Auxiliary and served on the Initiation Drill Team for many years. She will be sorely missed by her family and many friends. Sincere sympathy is extended to her family at this time.

Bud Holmgren was saddened at the death recently of his brother Bertel Holmgren, of Bjorka, Arvslindan, Sweden. Our sincere sympathy is extended.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Fawcett of St. Albert was the scene of a surprise party recently when many friends gathered to honor Ruth Bergquist on the occasion of her 50th birthday.

Helga Johnson presented a spring corsage to the honored guest and Gertrude Holmgren read a "biography" of Ruth's life.

The evening was spent in games and dancing. A buffet supper was served at midnight when a lovely birthday cake was the centre of attraction.

Mr. and Mrs. Mons Eliasson, Glen, Audry, Leonard, Matt and the children, and Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Pearson motored to Lacombe re-

cently when they were guests at a dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Eliasson. The occasion was in honor of Edward Eliasson's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Pearson returned from a holiday in California where they visited their daughter Elva and family in Santa Anna and their son Gordon and family in Anehiem. While there they had the pleasure of attending Vasa meetings at two lodges. Orange Blossom at Anehiem and Anchor Lodge at Newport, California. At Newport it was initiation night with candle light ceremony which was very effective. This was a busy, active lodge, with children's club and ladies auxiliary. There was great emphasis on cultural work. On their return they stopped over in Vancouver and visited their daughter Marge.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rushton spent a month holidaying in Hawaii. Mrs. Hilda Rydeman and her son Ed had a motor trip to California in March.

Willard and Evelyn Modin returned from a motor holiday to Florida and other points in the United States. They were away six weeks. They visited many well-known attractions, among them Key West and the Everglades in Florida, the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Grand Old Opera in Nashville, Tennessee. They had fine weather most of their trip but were held up going, with the heavy snow storms in the Dakotas, and on their return there were still snow drifts ten to twelve feet high. Where the snow had melted they saw carcasses of cattle which had perished in the terrible blizzards in those parts. They reported having a wonderful time and of meeting with much friendship and courtesy from people wherever they went across the border.

Mrs. Jeri Collins of Denver, Colorado has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Holmgren spent the Easter weekend in Bruce where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Erickson. On Friday afternoon a number of neighbors called at the Erickson home and Bud showed a film taken on his flight to Sweden via Oslo last summer. It was an interesting coincidence that everyone present were shareholders in the Scandinavian Centre.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson and their family, Jeri, Brian and Jimmie spent a few days in Jasper Park for some skiing.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Fawcett and family of St. Albert spent the Easter weekend in Jasper Park visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson received a pleasant surprise on the evening of April 9th when approximately thirty friends called at their home to celebrate with them on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary which falls on April 12th. On Friday, April 15th the couple held an anniversary reception at the Paddock.

It is learned that the following members of Lodge Skandia have been sick recently: Mrs. Clara Modin, sick at home; Oscar Modin in hospital, and Ernie Hokanson in hospital for an operation; but home and fine again. We wish them an early and complete recovery.

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NEWS

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Annual Memorial Service Held At Augustana Lutheran

Members of Lodge Skandia held their Annual Memorial Service at Augustana Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 3rd. Chairman Raul Nyroos opened the service, followed by a Prayer of Invocation in unison.

Hymn No. 387 was sung and there was a Scripture reading from Romans 8:37-9. Sigvard Franzen read a poem from Dag Hammarskjold's book, "Markings". Linnea Lodge gave a prayer, and a violin solo, Meditation, was played by Marvyn Weiss. Margaret Eliasson called the roll call followed by a Children's Chorus by the Vasa Barnklubb. Glen Eliasson gave the Memorial Address. After an address by Pastor Lindquist a men's chorus sang in Swedish "Var Jag Gar". The service closed with the Benediction and Choral Amens.

There were many beautiful flowers placed on the altar by families of the late brothers and sisters. These were later distributed to persons sick in hospitals. The offerings for the day were presented to the Memorial Fund of Augustana Church for the purchase of hymnals in the name of Vasa Lodge Skandia. Coffee was served in the social room following the service.

The ushers were Lennart Ueterson, Wayne Modin, Rune Anderson and Gerald Bergquist. The pastor was Reverend Leon Lindquist and the organist Miss Ellen Larson.

Lodge Skandia deeply appreciates the continued co-operation received from Augustana Church throughout the years for the use of this sanctuary for Memorial Services. A special thanks is conveyed to the minister and organist for their participation in the service.

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

CHARTER FLIGHT No. 15

EDMONTON, ALBERTA TO OSLO, NORWAY

\$335.00

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MAJOR SCHEDULED AIRLINES

Complimentary wines and cigarettes with meals. Continuous snacks and beverages during flight. In flight entertainment will be provided.

Loss of fare insurance up to 5 persons. Airport tax also included in price.

WRITE OR PHONE

FLIGHT DIRECTOR - ERIC PIERRE

12831 - 122nd STREET

PHONE: 455-5708

Vasa Lodge Skandia Holds April Meeting

At the regular meeting of Lodge Skandia No. 549 held on April 2nd in the Nordic Room, Scandinavian Centre, there was a good attendance of members, and Mr. and Mrs. Stonehauker of Lethbridge were welcomed as visitors. A Charter Member, Mrs. Minnie Nelson of Lloydminster was also present. Members reported sick were Evelyn Modin and Warner Lindquist.

Otto Van Rosen and Audrey Eliasson agreed to act as cultural representatives to the Scandinavian Centre for the current season.

Wayne Swanson gave notice that he and his wife would be leaving Edmonton to teach in the Caribbean in the near future and he asked that his resignation from the post of Secretary be accepted, also that they were resigning from membership. Eric Pierre extended good wishes on behalf of the Lodge, and a vote of thanks for the couples participation in lodge work since becoming members.

Initiation of seven new members was conducted by the initiation committee.

It was decided to hold Children's Camp week at Vasa Park, Pigeon Lake on the week commencing July 10th and Gertrude Holmgren agreed to act as leader.

Svea Erickson reported that on her recent visit to Winnipeg she had the pleasure of attending an East District meeting sponsored by Strindberg Lodge of that city. The gathering was held in Vasa Lund, the lodge's headquarters, where a banquet for 350 persons followed the meeting, with a dance after. She conveyed fraternal greetings to members of Lodge Skandia from District Master Art Johnson of Port

Arthur. Mrs. Erickson also visited the new senior citizen's home which is a project of Strindberg Lodge and situated on the Vasa Lund property.

At the close of the meeting a very nice lunch was served by a committee consisting of Vera Hyde, Mildren Weiss, Ida Enger and Adele Hartson.

Mr. Schoffield from Al Oeming's Game Farm showed slides of the animal life at the farm.

The next meeting on May 7th will be followed by a fancy dress dance and there will be games of chance so come and bring a friend for an evening of fun. This will be the last meeting held in the city until fall. Commencing with the June meeting through September meetings will be held at Vasa Park, Pigeon Lake.

VASA LADIES AUXILIARY

The final meeting of the season will be held at the home of Mary Pearson, No. 12, Leamington Apartment, 114 Street, on May 10th at 1:30 p.m.

CURLING AND BOWLING BANQUET AND DANCE

The Vasa curlers and bowlers will wind up their season with a social on Friday, May 6th in the Nordic Room, Scandinavian Centre. There will be refreshments at 6:30 and a smorgasbord supper will start at 7:30 p.m. Dancing until 1:00 a.m. to good music. For tickets call Evelyn Johnson, 433-6150 or Bert Wattson, 469-2876.

Valhalla Lodge Sponsors Charter Flight

Valhalla Lodge No. 341, Calgary, Alberta is sponsoring a charter flight to Oslo, Norway. The time set was for June 12th to July 9th, however the time was extended to an indefinite period. In courtesy to Roy Swanberg, Flight Committee Chairman, who sent me a letter with this information, I decided to pass the information on to our readers. The fare is only \$349.00 return.

Fare includes:

- (1) Air transportation.
- (2) Full course meals in flight.
- (3) Complimentary beverages.
- (4) Free flight bags.
- (5) Loss of fare insurance.
- (6) Air travel accident insurance — \$10,000.00.
- (7) In-flight entertainment.

You must be in possession of a valid passport and vaccination certificate. For further information contact — Mr. Roy N. Swanberg, 460 - 22nd Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta.

Whist Night Held In Nordic Room

Games of whist were played following a brief meeting on April 15th, in the Nordic room. Procedure of the game was slightly reversed, losers moved from table to table and after each hand was played.

The ladies' prizes went to Mrs. Swen Tychsen for high score, and Mrs. Ken Sivertsen for low score. Men's high score was won by Mr. Eskil Carlsen and Mr. Richard Larson took the low score. Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sivertsen were host and hostess for the evening.

The next social will be held on May 14th, "Norway's Independence Day", Smorgasbord and Dance. On May 25th a "Games Night". Keep these dates in mind.

THE EARTH DID SING . . .

BY ELSIE SIMMONS

Today in truth I know I heard
In joyous melody and word
A song of spring.

I heard the breezes gently sigh
A symphony in tree tops high
And birds did sing.

The brook in harmony replied
As laughing waters hurried by
With sounds of spring.

A bursting bud — a treble note
A thunder shower made loud report
That this is spring.

The busy bee did hum a tune
Amidst the blossoms at high noon
In sunny spring.

I heard the music in the air
'Twas like a chorus sweet and fair,
The earth did sing.

Giant Salmon Of Norway

MONTREAL—The mighty Atlantic salmon has always been the secret dream of every man who ever has held a fishing rod in his hand — and Norway with her numerous glacier-fed rivers is the traditional home country of the giant salmon.

Scandinavian Airlines System's Public Relations Department announces here that a new film called "Giant Salmon in Norway" has been acquired in the S.A.S. Film Library in Canada and is now available, free of charge, for showings for private groups, clubs, churches, associations and — in short — for people who are interested in the highest degree of sports fishing.

The duration of the colour film is about 25 minutes, the width is 16 millimeters and it is equipped with English soundtrack.

Norway holds several world records in salmon fishing and the biggest salmon ever caught weighed 72 lbs. This monster was caught by an Englishman in the Tana River in Arctic Norway.

Enquiries and bookings should be addressed to S.A.S. Public Relations Department, 1010 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal, Que.

ICELANDIC NOTES

SPECIAL

Sunday, May 15th at the Scand-
navian Centre — Fjallkona installa-
tion ceremony at 2:30 p.m. followed
by lunch and coffee.

Jake Henrickson has returned
home after a short sojourn at the
Colonel Mewborn Hospital. We are
all pleased that you are home again
Jake.

Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Arason of
International Falls, Minnesota were
visitors at the home of Beulah and
Walter Arason during Easter week.
Mr. Arason reported some icy spots
on the road, but good driving
conditions over the major portion
of the route.

Mrs. Bill Halldorson underwent
surgery in the Royal Alex Hospital
last month and is now recuperating
at home.

Ila Arnfinson, eldest daughter of
Fusi Arnfinson, is vacationing in
Hawaii.

Our Sick and Visiting Chairman,
Margaret Cameron, was a patient in
the hospital early in April. Her
friends will be glad to hear that
Margaret is recuperating at home.

This fall Icelandic exporters will
open, with government help, the
first Icelandic restaurant abroad.
The restaurant will be called the
Icelandic Food Centre and will serve
Icelandic dishes in the heart of
London on Regent Street — pro-
viding a show window for agricul-
tural and sea produce from Ice-
land.

I have been asked by our Presi-
dent to extend the appreciation of
our executive to all who helped
make our Spring Dance the success
it was.

Dr. Raymond Thorsteinsson (ge-
ologist), of Calgary, has left for
Stockholm to carry on research in
Sweden. Dr. Thorsteinsson is well
known in this field concerning his
work in our Canadian Arctic archi-
pelago.

Miss Hulda Bjarnson of Gimli has
been an Easter visitor at the home
of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr.
and Mrs. Al Campbell.

Sharon Hirst, daughter of Mr. and
Mrs. M. Hirst, has been elected
Queen of the Ookpik '66 Carnival
at Hay River. Sharon will repre-
sent Hay River in Edmonton during
Klondike days. Sharon's sister,
Joanne will go to Quebec on the
Students Exchange Programme.
Students are selected for their
scholastic ability and personality.
Joanne will be leaving July 4th,
travelling on the Centennial Car-
van.

Don't forget our Fjallkona cere-
mony and coffee party at the
Scandinavian Centre in the after-
noon of May 15th. We are looking
forward to a nice time with you
and hope to show a film on Iceland
during coffee.

Mr. and Mrs. Valdi Jackson and
daughter Joanie of Elfros, Saskat-
chewan, were Easter holiday guests
at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.
Sumarladason.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. M.
Henderson attended a three week
convention in Hawaii sponsored by
I.B.M. While they were away, Mrs.
Harold Henderson of Moose Jaw
attended to her two little grandsons.

Edmonton Icelanders extend their
sympathy to Mrs. Walter Maxon,
following the news of the untimely
death of her husband. Mrs. G. J.
Sveinbjornson, of Vancouver, sister
of the deceased, attended the
funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Hordal of
Yellowknife are on an extended
vacation in Western Canada. Major
stops are Saskatoon and Winnipeg.

Reykjavik Most
Northerly Capital
In The World

Reykjavik is the most northerly
capital in the world — the capital
in the land of the midnight sun in
the middle of the North Atlantic.
Ingolfur Arnarson, the Norse Viking
who in the year 874 was the first
person to make his home in
Reykjavik, was at the same time the
first Icelandic settler, and the
colonization of Iceland started with
him. Although Reykjavik is old, it
is also a modern city, and one
that is growing rapidly. It is some-
times referred to as the "Smokeless
City" despite the fact that the name
itself in Icelandic means "Smoky
Bay". However, the smoke that the
early settlers named Reykjavik after
was in actual fact steam rising from
the hot springs. The Reykjavik of
today utilizes this natural heat to
warm its houses. The water,
brought underground in pipes from
the hot springs into the city, has
transformed the "Smoky Bay" into
the "Smokeless City".

This rapidly expanding city is the
centre of trade, culture and com-
munications for all Iceland. From
Reykjavik there are daily air services
to North America and several Euro-
pean countries; the city offers
visitors modern hotels and other
accommodation similar to that
found in countries on both sides
of the Atlantic. Whether you visit
Iceland on business or pleasure you
will always be made welcome.

The Laxdale Saga
Excellent Book

The publishers of the Everyman's
Library have re-issued the Laxdale
Saga. Written in the first half of
the 13th century, it ranks with Njal's
Saga and Egil's Saga as one of the
greatest of the "family" sagas.

Although it deals with real people,
who played a dramatic and colourful
part in the early history of Iceland,
it is not history in the true sense.
The author of Laxdale Saga, like
the authors of the other great
sagas, did not let facts interfere
with his literary sense. Fictitious
characters and the juggling of dates
were devices used to heighten
dramatic tension whenever the
author found the facts to be less
than adequate for his purpose.

The first half of the saga is
episodic. The author carefully
constructed his story using inci-
dents that had a direct bearing on
the main action of the saga. The
climax contains all the heroic and
tragic elements of the classic saga
— honour and fate, murder and
revenge.

A unique twist on the eternal
triangle reminiscent of the legend
of Sigurd and Brynhild forms the
basis of the saga; this translation
was originally published in 1899
and is at times somewhat stiff and
awkward. However, the saga itself
is engrossing and powerful enough
to overcome any faults in transla-
tion.

The Horse symbol of Scandinavian Design
Cavalcade.

FINNISH SOCIETY

FINNISH
FOOTNOTES

Happy Mothers Day to all
Mothers!

The annual fishing derby was
held on March 27th at Lake St.
Anne. The day was warm and
enjoyable even though the fish
didn't bite everyone's bait. Mrs.
Sikka Nahkuri was the winner of
the ladies fishing event with 2½
pounds of fish, 2nd was Mrs. Maria
Utunen with 2¼ pounds and 3rd
was Mrs. Anja Leino with 2 pounds.
First prize in the men's fishing event
went to Mr. T. Nahkuri by draw
with 6 pounds of fish, 2nd was
Mr. V. Heinonen also with 6 pounds,
and 3rd place was captured by Mr.
P. Utunen with 4 pounds. Many
children were also participating this
year. Thanks to Mrs. Helvi Rastas
and Mrs. Sirkka Vesaniemi who
served coffee to everyone after the
contest.

The April social was well attend-
ed, thanks to all with hoping of
similar attendance in May. During
the evening the trophies were pre-
sented to winners of the annual
fishing derby.

The next general meeting of the
Finnish Society will be held at the
home of Mr. and Mrs. V. Leino,
13555 - 124A Avenue on Tuesday,
June 7th, 1966 starting at 8:00
p.m.

—The Executive

A speedy recovery to Mrs. T.
Virtanen who was in hospital re-
cently.

Many thanks to everyone who so
thoughtfully visited and sent flowers
and cards to me during my recent
stay in hospital.

—Veikko Hagman

Mr. and Mrs. John Rama left for
Santa Ana, California to spend
Easter holidays with their daughter
Mrs. M. J. Demers and family.

Mrs. Joan Koivuneva is one of
the lucky ladies of "Wanders" bow-
ling team who won the city wide
housewife bowling challenge in "B"

Each one of the winners
came home with a lovely 6 piece
silver tea service. Congratulations.

Mrs. E. Tikkanen of Rich Lake,
Alberta visited her daughter Mrs.
E. Plamondon and family of Ques-
nel, B.C. recently.

Recent visitor at the home of Mr.
and Mrs. J. Kiuvuneva was her
father, Mr. E. Tikkanen of Rich
Lake, Alberta.

A surprise birthday party was
held for Mr. E. Salovaars on April
15th, 1966. The hostess of the
evening was Mrs. A. Kovacs.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Leino and Reisa
motored to Calgary and Banff
during the Easter long weekend.

Birthday greetings to Mrs. E.
Tikkanen of Rich Lake. A party
was held in her honour on Satur-
day, April 16th.

Bon Voyage to Mr. and Mrs. L.
Vagovics who are leaving for holi-
days in Europe.

Happy Birthdays to the following
members of the Finnish Society who
all are celebrating their birthdays
during May: Mr. E. Honka, Mrs. S.
Nahkuri, Mrs. S. Jaakkola, Mrs. A.
Sahuri, Mr. V. Meinonen and Mr. E.
Marjamaa.

Bon Voyage to all who are flying
on the May 20th Scandinavian
charter flight to Oslo. The Finnish
Society wishes a very enjoyable
holiday to all and especially to
those who continue their trip to
Finland.

Miss Sirpa Nurme returned re-
cently from a very enjoyable vaca-
tion to Miami Beach, Florida.

Speedy recovery to Mrs. Keino,
of Thorhild, Alberta, who was in
hospital recently.

Recent visitors to Edmonton in-
cluded Mr. M. Haikarainen, and
Mr. E. Lansimaki.

Increased Hotel Capacity In Norway

Altogether 1,115 new hotel beds
were added to the total capacity
in Norway last year. In addition,
several new mountain lodges and
inexpensive pensions were built or
extended in 1965, according to
Scandinavian Airlines System's
Tour Department in Montreal.

Two large student hotels were
completed in Norway last year —
Hatleberg Student Center in Bergen
with 420 beds and Moholt Student
Hotel in Trondheim with 864 beds.
Both are ideal for conventions and
larger groups. Oslo Student Hotel
now has 1,100 beds in 750 rooms.

The northernmost hotel in the
world was opened at Spitsbergen
last June — the North Pole Hotel
at New Aalesund. It has only 13
beds, but will be extended over the
next few years.

A new restaurant was opened on
the very top of Ronvik Mountain
near Bodo. The Ronvik Mountain
Restaurant is built of glass and
concrete, with grand views of the
town, fjords and islands, a popular
stopping place for those taking part
in the famous "Midnight Sun Excur-
sions" by S.A.S. from Oslo to Bodo
and back.

In Oslo, the Continental is build-
ing a new wing to provide 70 addi-
tional beds, and the Viking is
building a new block with 195 beds.
The Norwegian Automobile Associa-
tion (N.A.F.) together with B.P. will
build a 10-storey block just outside
the city, with shops, offices, hotel
rooms and a large convention hall.

During the summer season, S.A.S.
maintains a service of six flights a
week from Montreal to Copenhagen,
with immediate connections to Oslo
and other major cities in Norway.

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT

NOTE OF THANKS

A vote of hearty thanks to the following for their donations to the Scandinavian Centre News. Mrs. Ragna Arntzen donated \$5.00, Mrs. Annie Herstad \$2.00, Miss Ruth Hammerstad \$2.00, and Mrs. Nels Naversteth \$2.00.

Mrs. Ragna Arntzen was pleasantly surprised by a few of the members of Sons of Norway on April 13th, who helped her celebrate her 80th birthday. The visitors were Ragna Sivertsen, Lydia Naversteth, Annie Herstad, Ruth Hammerstad, Kalmar and Maisie Amdam and Alvin and Ella Searl. She was presented with a spring bouquet of flowers and card. She had received several bouquets, many beautiful cards and a number of phone calls. She still manages quite well on her own and is quite capable of rendering a snappy tune or two on the piano which she demonstrated to us.

Birthday greetings to Mr. Gustave Algot who will be celebrating his 81st birthday on May 17th.

Mr. Klaas Lubbers suffered a heart attack on March 26th and has been recuperating in the University Hospital. At the time of writing he was allowed to sit for short periods on the side of his bed. We all wish him a speedy recovery. His wife Hazel is the faithful pianist for the lodge socials.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bradford had their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. Zachernuk, from Calgary visiting with them during the Easter weekend.

Mrs. Ragna Sivertsen had her son Gordon and family from Calgary spending the Easter weekend with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lineham and boys spent the week of Easter holidays in Vancouver and area visiting Joe's recently married sister.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. John Enger and family on the recent

passing of wife and mother, Ida Enger.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Borgerson spent the Easter holidays at Banff where they enjoyed some skiing in spite of the not too pleasant weather. They also paid a visit to a distant relative of Ole's in Calgary. A veteran of the 1st and 2nd World Wars who has many interesting experiences to relate. Borgersons have plans for a trip to Norway, in May where they will attend a Commemorative of Norway's great poets to be held in Bergen.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nilson left in March for a holiday to the Canary Islands and from there will go to Norway, where they also plan to attend the Bergen Festival.

Mr. and Mrs. Kesich, who are prospective new members, recently spent an enjoyable holiday in Mexico and California.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burrows have moved to Calgary. They are residing at 2013 - 24 Avenue N.W.

Mr. and Mrs. Anders Anderson have moved to their new home at 9111 - 142 Street. Phone: 488-8998.

March 19th was the annual Bowling Tournament between Calgary and Edmonton. Four teams from Edmonton motored to Calgary and as usual we were unable to bring home the trophy. However, congratulations go to Andy Mjaatveit for winning the Men's Trophy given for bowling the highest number of pins over the average. We understand one of Andy's games was 344 — real tournament bowling. We wish to extend a hearty thanks to the Calgary group for the good time they showed us, we really enjoyed ourselves.

Miss Betty McKevitt recently spent the weekend in Regina.

The Sons of Norway Bowling Season is coming quickly to an end and there has been close competition this year with the teams Norsemen and Trolls ending up in a tied position for the second place playoff spot. There will be a special bowl-off planned to decide the competitor in the play-offs.

Don't forget the Annual Bowling Banquet which will be held April 30th in the Scandinavian Centre. Anyone interested in obtaining tickets please contact Bernard Olafson at 469-2159.

Mr. Peter and Holger Hansen attended a convention in Red Deer recently.

The North Norway port of Narvik is being deepened by blasting bottom rock to accommodate iron ore carriers up to 80,000 tons. The project is carried out by the Swedish mining company LKAB.

"Harald Viking," latest and largest addition to the Scandinavian Airlines fleet, recently flew non-stop from California to Oslo in 10 hrs. 9 mins. The DC-8-55 four-engined fan jet seats 145 passengers.

Sweden's largest copper deposit, located north of the Arctic Circle is being developed and production is expected to start in late 1968.

Solglyt Lodge Holds Hard Time Dance

A St. Patrick's Day Hard Time Dance was held by the Sons of Norway Lodge in the Viking room of the Scandinavian Centre, on Saturday, March 19th. There were around 150 people in attendance.

The hard time costumes were many and varied. The costume judges Mr. and Mrs. Colin McLean and Mr. and Mrs. Garnett Anthony of CBC-TV had a difficult time in making a final decision. The ladies prizes went to Orla Tychsen, the most original, Bearl Cougar, of Wainwright, the most humorous and, Clara Steinman, Edmonton, the most ragged. The men's prizes went to Mr. Henry Omalichuk, the most original, Mr. John McDonald, the most humorous and Mr. John Sather, the most ragged, all were from Edmonton.

Honorable mention went to Rose Svidal and Mr. Myrle Travis. The little peoples pot of gold was won by Mr. Nels Paulson of Edmonton. Freddie the Freeloader otherwise known as Joe Lineham, our Social Director kept the crowd in a jovial humor all night with his take-off on the Red Skeleton character. Lunch was served at midnight by Ragna Sivertsen, Hazel Lubbers and Lydia Naversteth.

DANIA DOINGS

On May 13th will be our next Dance and we hope many will come out at 9:00 p.m. there will be entertainment of the "Barbados Troupe Steel Band" and "Linbo Dance". So come early, so you won't miss this. Let us show these people, that we appreciate they will come. We will dance to the same orchestra as we have had for the last two Dances and everybody seems to like. So please come early and enjoy a good time.

"BIKUBEN" will meet on May 9th this month at 10029 - 85 Avenue, the second Monday instead of the third for this month, so please remember the change of date.

Remember to tune in to the Danish Program with Erik Pedersen on Sunday, May 8th and 22nd at 4:30 p.m. Most likely he will have some interesting news for you in any case you will hear some good Danish music. So please remember these two dates.

Are you taking a trip to the old country this summer, then see the Ad in this paper and do something about it before it gets too late.

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JEAN SIBELIUS . . . THE VOICE OF FINLAND!

By GEORGE KENT

In a snow-covered garden near Helsinki, an old man stood gazing at the sky as flights of Russian bombers swept past. It was November, 1939. The Soviet Union, after the Finns had refused to cede its territory to strengthen its borders, had invaded Finland. White with anger, the old man shook his fist at the planes until they disappeared in the distance. Then, with a shrug of despair, he went back into the house.

The man was Jean Sibelius, then 74 years old, and his defiant attitude that winter's day was symbolic of a love of country that inspired every hour of his long life. So deeply embedded in his spirit was Finland that each of his many compositions seems to speak to mankind of Sibelius' beloved north: the long white nights, swans and cranes flying, birch and pine forests; and above all, of his passionate love of liberty. Finland is Sibelius, and Sibelius is Finland.

"Other composers make a cocktail of many colors," he said. "I give people pure water." It was the pure water of his native land, and for over half a century it flowed in the concert halls of the world, enchanting listeners and bringing to them — mostly city-dwellers — the air and spaciousness of nature, free and unspoiled. It still flows, for his works are fixed permanently in the repertoires of orchestras everywhere. When he died eight years ago, he was Finland's first citizen, revered by his fellow countrymen as a national hero.

Sibelius was born on December 8, 1865, a son of an army doctor. His baptismal name was Johan Julius Christian, but later, when he found visiting cards left behind by an adored uncle, a sea captain, he changed his name to fit the lettering on the cards and so became Jean Sibelius.

At five, Sibelius was playing the piano and composing. At ten he wrote a pizzicato for violin and cello called "Raindrops," which is still played occasionally. His love of nature showed itself early. With a violin under his arm he would ramble in the forest, stopping suddenly to climb on a rock and play from a heart bursting with joy. "I play to give back to the trees and the birds what they have given to me." He kept moss in a matchbox and now and then he would sniff it. Its fragrance brought him back to him "the sound of the wind in the trees and birds singing." There was something mystical in his relationship with feathered creatures. Gifted with perfect pitch, he could tell the different keys in which birds warbled. "The bullfinch whistles in D-flat," he would say. "The curlew goes from A to F. The cuckoo is neither sharp nor flat, it is off-key."

Since his mother wanted him to study law, young Jean obeyed. But he skipped classes so regularly that she at last allowed him to do what he wanted most; to study music. He began at the conservatory in Helsinki, then went on to complete his education in Berlin and Vienna.

At the time, he was a tall, slender man with a long mane of tousled blond hair. He seemed always in a state of excitement. "Music has color," he exclaimed one day. "A-major is blue, C-major is red, D-minor is yellow." An intensely serious student, he often composed through the night, but he was also high-spirited, with the

gift of gaiety. Once, in Berlin, Sibelius spent his entire monthly allowance in an evening and then, needing more money, sold his clothes. All that remained of his wardrobe were his formal evening clothes — white tie and tails. Thus clad, with shirt soiled and wrinkled, he traveled home to Helsinki.

On the night that Sibelius presented his first major work, *Kullervo*, Helsinki concertgoers were handed rather strange-looking programs. The young composer detested the crackle of pages during a concert; so, for his premiere, he had insisted that special soft paper be used for the programs. His other innovation, however, was even more remarkable: the concert program was printed in the Finnish language.

In the Finland of the early 1890's, such a gesture was highly symbolic. For many years, the country's culture had been in jeopardy. Swedish had long been the language of the arts, administration and upper-class conversation. And in Czarist Russia, influential circles had been calling for closer incorporation of Finland into the Russian Empire and for restrictions on the Finns' constitutional rights.

The Finns felt themselves in danger — but against their giant neighbor what resistance could they offer? There was always the power of the spirit, Sibelius felt, and he took as the motif of his first major composition a story from the country's national epic, *Kalevala*. "Such music has not been heard before," one Helsinki newspaper said of the *Kullervo* premiere. "This was the first really Finnish composition."

Sibelius composed another piece that was to strengthen and affirm the sense of Finnish identity, a work that was to make the name of Finland known throughout the world. In the autumn of 1899, for a pageant performed at the Swedish Theater in Helsinki, Sibelius composed music for a tableau of Finnish history. The finale was *Finlandia*, whose incendiary theme now rang out for the first time.

The patriotic feeling in Finland has no equal in music. Sibelius was deeply aware of the anguish of the Finnish people, and he composed the piece in defense of freedom of speech. With its primitive force, the work was a stirring protest against the oppressors of Finland.

The young composer soon became a prominent figure among the spiritual leaders of his people. But his was not a public career, and he felt more and more driven by the need to compose. "The unhappiest composers," he said, "are those whose work is an inner compulsion. I am one myself." To him life was a block of granite that he had to carve and shape with the hammer and chisel of his will.

Once, while in Helsinki, he suddenly had an impulse after midnight to drive by horse and buggy to his home in the village of Kerava. The long ride through the darkness and into the glory of the dawn is believed to have inspired his beautiful "Night Ride and Sunrise," in which one can hear the hoofbeats, the silken rustle of the leaves and the great outburst of birdsong as "the sea of constantly changing light" becomes the limpid steadfast glow of morning.

Afire with genius Sibelius might be, but he also suffered greatly from ill health. He was plagued by one discouraging ailment after another. A life insurance company refused to insure him unless he paid an extra premium. Once he came down with an ear malady, and it seemed for a time that he would lose his hearing. Then a growth developed in his throat. He underwent 15 operations before a surgeon succeeded in removing it. For years he would worry, waking suddenly at night in fear that the tumor might return.

Eventually the weak youth became a vast, muscular rock of a man who did not know the meaning of fatigue and lived on a diet of cigars, wine, brandy and large helpings of food. Until he was 80, Sibelius walked regularly to his sauna. And winter and summer, almost to the day of his death, he rubbed himself down every morning with ice-cold water kept in a bucket on his balcony.

He always retained his zest for living. The story is told of a party he gave for some friends, among them the conductor, Robert Kajanus. Suddenly recalling an urgent engagement in St. Petersburg, Kajanus quietly left the group. Two days later he came back to find the party still going strong. Sibelius, apparently unaware of the passage of time demanded, "Why don't you sit down Robert, and stop running in and out all the time?"

From the outset, Sibelius' countrymen grasped the meaning of his music, but there was a coolness on the part of foreign audiences, who could not understand the intensely personal and, above all, Finnish idiom of his compositions. When the Fourth Symphony was first played in Sweden, listeners hooted and whistled. "How dull, how drearily dull," wrote a Chicago critic of the Second Symphony. In New York, conductor Walter Damrosch was so uncertain of the reception of the Fourth Symphony that he apologized to the audience before playing it. One reviewer described it as "less consequential than the ravings of a drunkard."

"It will take 20 years before foreign listeners understand what I

(continued on page 7)

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JEAN SIBELIUS . . .

the Voice of Finland!

(continued from page 6)

have written," Sibelius predicted. But he underestimated their capacity; England and the United States soon became his fervent admirers. In 1914 Yale honored him with a doctorate. In presenting the degree, Professor Wilbur L. Cross said: "What Wagner did for the Teutonic legend, Sibelius has done in his own impressive way with the legends of Finland." During his lifetime he was the recipient of other honorary degrees, and was named an honorary professor of the Budapest conservatory. Gold medals and decorations came to him from virtually every nation.

When still young, Sibelius had married Aino Jarnefelt, daughter of a Finnish general. It was an astonishingly successful marriage. For this lovely woman, who knew his compositions bar by bar, Sibelius built a house 23 miles from Helsinki and called it Ainola after her. It was a two-storey log cabin, the outside boarded over and painted white. Inside, the logs were peeled but unadorned. At the door stood three enormous pine trees. They darkened the rooms, but the composer would not permit their removal. Through another window he could look out on a grove of silver birches, and from them he drew inspiration as he wrote his music.

When Aino was 75, Sibelius said at her birthday party: "You might have been happier with another; I never." Ten years later, disobeying his doctors' orders, he climbed the steps to her room and, presenting her with a large bouquet of roses, said, "I have come to propose a second time."

The great sadness in Sibelius' later life was his Eighth Symphony, which was talked about and promised but never came into being. For 30 years from the age of 61 onward, he composed every day but destroyed the music almost as quickly as he put it down. Two movements were completed, but he later admitted having destroyed them. The general belief is that other compositions also ended in the fire. His wife said that it was undue self-criticism that kept him from publishing his music. He himself said,

"The Kingdom of Heaven will come when man loses his power of self-criticism."

For a man like Sibelius, whose greatest joy was creating fine music his failure to produce over his long period was a tragic experience. He could have traveled everywhere, living a full, happy life while resting on the laurels gained by his past achievements. Instead, he shunned the world, locking himself up at Ainola, endlessly hoping that somehow he could fan the spark of creative inspiration into fire.

Throughout World War II Sibelius, like his fellow countrymen, often lacked the simple necessities. Owing to inflation, his annual allowance from the Finnish government shrank in value. Orchestras in the United

States and England offered to give benefit concerts for him, but he would not accept such generosity, preferring to share the hardships of his compatriots. After a while, the government adjusted his pension, and royalties from abroad began arriving. One thing, however, money could not buy in that postwar period: his beloved cigars. "Cigars are food to me," he once said.

Leopold Stokowski heard of this need and sent Sibelius a box of 41 cigars, all different, asking him to choose which he liked best. "Paris in Greek mythology had the choice of three beauties," Sibelius wrote to the conductor. "I have 41." Someone in New York organized a "Cigars for Sibelius" movement; soon boxes were arriving from all corners of the globe. Among the donors were Eisenhower, Toscanini and Marian Anderson. So many arrived that Sibelius wrote, "I will not live long enough to smoke them all."

At night he turned the dials of his powerful radio in the hope of catching orchestras in foreign countries playing his compositions. Once, in company with a son-in-law, Jussi Jalas, he heard a less than perfect rendition of one of his symphonies. Furious, he said that he was going to write a letter to the conductor and tell him exactly what he thought of him. Some years later Jalas met the conductor. From his wallet the man pulled out a frayed, folded piece of paper. "This is my most precious possession," he said. It was the letter from Sibelius. But, rather than scathing criticism, it contained only friendly words.

In matters of business, Sibelius made many mistakes. For a very modest sum and a box of cigars Sibelius sold his "Valse Triste," one of his most popular works, to a publisher who made a fortune from it. Most of his music played in the United States earned him nothing because he had not thought to copyright it.

On September 18, 1957, a flight of cranes swept over Ainola, and Sibelius, who was watching them, noted that one bird left the flock, swooped low over the house, then rejoined the others. To the old composer it was an omen. Two days later he died of a cerebral hemorrhage. Thousands of mourners from students to the great men of Finland filed past his plain pine coffin in Helsinki Cathedral. Thousands more stood silently along the route of the procession back to Ainola, where Sibelius was buried in his garden, near the silver birches he loved so much.

To the world at large, Jean Sibelius left a rich legacy of more than 200 works of music, many of them masterpieces. To his fellow countrymen he left still another legacy: a proud new awareness of their national character and the beauty of their land.

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SPORTS COLUMN

District Curling Bonspiel Held At Calmar

Buford Lodge played host to a District bonspiel on Calmar ice when rinks from Calgary, Lethbridge, Fahlun, Edmonton and Buford took part.

The Buford Vasa ladies served a hearty turkey dinner at noon. The event was somewhat marred due to the very warm weather which melted the ice, so that the last draws moved to Thorsby to get the contest completed. The Floyd Modin rink of Buford won the District Trophy.

Rolf Bjoerling At Jubilee Auditorium March 27th

The question must have been in the minds of most who went to hear tenor Rolf Bjoerling sing at the Jubilee Auditorium on March 27th as to how he would measure up against his late father Jussi Bjoerling, as many will have heard him in person sing here, and more will possess recordings of his great voice.

It was almost unbelievable that the two voices could be so similar. And more surprising that father and son bore such close personal resemblance. Enough to say then, that Rolf Bjoerling was greatly enjoyed by all who attended his concert.

And as a good singer needs a good accompanist, Russell Stepan

THE EREMITAGE

In the Deer Park at Klampenborg, near Copenhagen, was built in 1736 and was originally a royal hunting lodge with adjacent game preserves. On the plain in front of the lodge and in the surrounding woods are to be seen large herds of deer. Motor traffic is allowed only on Wednesdays between 7:00 a.m. and sunset, and only on the road from Hjortekaer-port to the Ermitage lodge and back. Parking is allowed only on a parking ground north of the lodge. After a walk in the woods one may relax in one of the small refreshment gardens or enjoy oneself in the popular pleasure-grounds Dyrehavsbakken where there are switchbacks, revue theatres and all sorts of amusements. Fashionable life unfolds itself around the large seaside hotel. Bellevue Strand hotel, and on the Ermitage golf-course and Klampenborg racecourse. In fine weather in summer the beach of Bellevue is extremely popular.

New L.P. By Olaf Sveen On Market

Olaf Sveen has come out with a new Long Playing record called "Accordion Favourites", featuring his brother George and himself. It contains the following numbers: "Finnlander Polka", "Norwegian Waltz", "Polka in the Rain", "Mountain Bride Waltz", "Roslags Hambo", "Vestgota-swing", "Dance in the Mountain Cabin", "Sunshine Waltz",

"Freja" Completes Successful Season

The winter season is over for the Alberta Continental Handball Association Tournaments. The handball club "Freja" did not get to the top. The tournaments seem to have had a wrong set up as we did not get a second chance to play against the Calgary "A" Team. We only played them one game and lost that one, as far as we understand it used to be the best team out of three games that is the winner.

Our men's "B" team could have a little more luck than they have had to date they never lost a game. Our girls were fine losers, they did not win one single game the whole winter, but they never lost their spirit, the president has lots of confidence in them and say, just wait and see, we have been on the top once and we will be there again.

A. John Fischr,
President.

Count von Rosen Joins S.A.S Sales Staff

MONTREAL — Hans J. Dedekam, Canadian Manager for Scandinavian Airlines System has announced the appointment of Count Otto von Rosen as the Resident Sales Representative for S.A.S. in Edmonton, Alberta, effective as of April 1st.

Count Otto — as he is affectionately called by his flying friends — hails from Sweden and after a colorful career leading him through Africa and South America, he landed in Canada in 1957. Working here first as a flying instructor, he received an offer from Wardair Ltd. in Yellowknife to do some bush-piloting. It may be for the first time that a young Swedish nobleman has worked for his livelihood as a bush pilot in the Canadian Arctic. From Yellowknife he moved to Vancouver in 1960 and after that to the United States and then back to Canada in the spring of 1963, this time with the Beauty Queen of the University of South Carolina as his bride.

This time he was appointed as the Base Manager and pilot for Pacific Western Airlines in Fort Smith, N.W.T. A year later, he was transferred to Vancouver and from there to Edmonton, Alberta, after a brief stay in Prince George, B.C.

Otto von Rosen will be calling on travel agencies and commercial accounts in the Province of Alberta in his new capacity as a Resident Sales Representative for S.A.S. in Edmonton. His area belongs administratively to the Winnipeg District Sales Office, headed by Gordon E. Honsey.

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Four new stamps, in denominations of 40, 55, 60, and 90 ore, will be issued by the Norwegian Post Office on February 8th to honor the World Skiing Championships to be held at Oslo, February 17-27, 1966.

**Seek Safety
For Highway**

The provincial AMA will press for the redesigning of No. 2 Highway from Calgary to Airdrie as a safety measure, it was decided at the branch's annual meeting.

The action was taken as direct result of fatal accident at Bizac on the undivided four-lane highway.

Acting on a resolution presented by a meeting of the Calgary branch, by Macdonald Millard, QC, the organization urged that the highway immediately north of Calgary be changed into a divided four-lane roadway "as it should have been constructed 10 years ago."

The resolution will be discussed by provincial directors March 25 and, if approved, will then be forwarded to the provincial government.

BULLETIN BOARD

FINNISH SOCIETY
DANCE

SATURDAY, MAY 7th, 1966 — 8:00 P.M.
Scandinavian Centre, 14220 - 125 Ave.
Refreshments Available Lunch

VASA LODGE SKANDIA NO. 549
presents
KARNEVAL and LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Saturday, May 7th, 1966 at 9:00 p.m.
SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NORDIC ROOM
GAMES — DANCING — REFRESHMENTS

DANIA MONTHLY DANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 13th - 9:00 to 1:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Centre, 14220 - 125 Avenue
ENTERTAINMENT REFRESHMENTS
Members: \$1.50 Non-Members \$2.00
EVERYBODY WELCOME!

SON'S OF NORWAY LODGE
NORWAY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
SMORGASBORD AND DANCE

Scandinavian Centre — Viking Room
SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 1966
Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. — Smorgasbord 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dance: 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.
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Sunday, May 1st, 7:00 p.m. Danish Service, Pastor Staal Nielsen

Sunday, May 8th, 11:00 a.m. English Service, Pastor R. Markens

Sunday, May 15th, 7:00 p.m. Danish Service, Pastor Staal Nielsen

Sunday, May 22nd, 11:00 a.m. English Service, Pastor R. Markens

Sunday, May 29th, 7:00 p.m. Danish Service, Pastor Staal Nielsen

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The May Schedule of Broadcasts . . .
Sunday, May 8th and 22nd